United Nations A/62/485

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 28 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Nestor Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on 25 September 2007, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-54094 (E) 221007

Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On Tuesday afternoon, 25 September 2007, the President of the Republic of Argentina, in his statement before the General Assembly, raised some absurd allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our intention is not to delve into details of the seemingly quasi-judicial but utterly political scenario, namely the Amia case, that the President of Argentina referred to, but, rather, to re-emphasize our position in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always condemned all acts of terrorism wherever and by whomever they are committed. We condemned the Amia bombing and called for the application of justice to those who committed the crime. It is, however, disappointing to see that, after 13 long years, the perpetrators of this terrorist act are yet to be apprehended and brought to justice. The reason for this failure is too obvious to explain. An inefficient and corrupt judicial system, coupled with political rivalries and exigencies, has rendered the Argentine authorities incapable of dealing with the Amia case in a proper and purely legal manner. In such circumstances, the perpetrators of the Amia terrorist bombing have been able to get away with impunity, and instead, a number of innocent Iranian nationals have been unjustly and baselessly accused.

Against this background and despite the fact that not a single piece of credible evidence has been provided to prove the involvement of Iranian nationals in that terrorist act, the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed, as a sign of goodwill, to cooperate with the Argentine judiciary on the case in order to remove any misunderstanding caused by years of slanderous fabrications and manipulations, as well as to restore the reputation of the Iranian nationals unjustly harmed by baseless allegations and in the hope that some light will finally be shed on this complicated case.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, mindful of the negative impacts those baseless allegations have had on Iran-Argentina bilateral relations for the past decade, has put forward a number of initiatives and proposals to deal with this issue based on the domestic law of both countries as well as on international law. The Argentine authorities are expected to consider these initiatives very seriously and let logic and the rule of law prevail over politics and third-party ploys.

The unfounded claims made by the President of the Republic of Argentina did not astonish us, since the news of such an unwise move had been circulated by pro-Zionist media and American proxies well in advance. However, it was expected that the President would exercise vigilance not to be influenced by the biased and hostile political and propaganda campaign directed against Iran in order to undermine the friendly bilateral relations between Iran and other countries, including Argentina. Indeed, this scenario was designed to tarnish the image of Iran by certain parties in the United States and Israel. It had nothing to do with justice, law or even facts.

It should be stressed that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran resolves to restore the reputation of its nationals harmed by irresponsible allegations and shameless fabrications. In this context, those who collaborated to dishonour the Iranian nationals by levelling unfounded allegations against them will be held accountable. We remind the Government of the Republic of Argentina of its responsibility in this regard.

United Nations A/62/486

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 October 2007
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-second session
Agenda items 12, 14, 15, 48, 49, 52, 54, 58, 59, 77, 99 (b) and 108

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Culture of peace

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Oceans and the law of the sea

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 10 October 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose a copy of the Managua Declaration: The Gulf of Fonseca, a zone of peace, sustainable development and security, which was signed in Managua on 4 October 2007 by the President of the Republic of El Salvador, Elías Antonio Saca González, the President of the Republic of Honduras, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, and the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, José Daniel Ortega Saavedra (see annex).

07-54127 (E) 171007 221007

The proposal on the joint management of the Gulf of Fonseca, which was put forward by the President of El Salvador, Elías Antonio Saca, was welcomed by the other two Presidents and, by mutual consent, a mini-summit was held in Managua, during which the three leaders agreed upon the aforementioned Declaration.

As you will know, the unusually shaped Gulf of Fonseca contains many resources that are vitally important for the economic, trade, agricultural, tourism and industrial activities of the coastal States, in particular the shoreline communities.

The Managua Declaration heralds a new era of collaboration and cooperation and strengthens Central American integration, in particular territorial integration with a view to future development and cooperation between the local population and the authorities in the border areas of the three States in order to combat poverty by focusing on the territories' specialist production activities and economic characteristics.

It also makes an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, particularly in the area of conflict prevention, since, on account of their economic potential, the waters of the Gulf have traditionally been the site of clashes and skirmishes between fishing fleets and the local authorities of the three countries.

The Declaration is also a recognition of the United Central America that we have dreamed of restoring since the time of Francisco Morazán (3 October 1792 to 15 September 1842), the last President of the Federal Republic of Central America, who was martyred for the cause.

Given the developments that have taken place in Central America since the 1980s, we believe that the Managua Declaration and its implementation will serve as an example for other regions of the world by consolidating peace and Central American integration.

We would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 14, 15, 48, 49, 52, 54, 58, 59, 77, 99 (b) and 108.

(*Signed*) Carmen María **Gallardo Hernández**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of El Salvador

(*Signed*) Iván **Romero-Martínez**
Ambassador
Permanent Répresentative of Honduras

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua

Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Managua Declaration

The Gulf of Fonseca, a zone of peace, sustainable development and security

We, the Presidents of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, meeting in the city of Managua, Nicaragua, with a view to broadening and deepening the bonds of fraternity, understanding and cooperation within the framework of a process of Central American integration and growing unity which will guarantee cooperation in a spirit of fairness and solidarity in order to achieve the sustainable development of the Central American region, have decided to begin a new era of collaboration and cooperation in order to address and resolve, in a holistic manner, issues relating to the Gulf of Fonseca by means of an open and constructive dialogue on, inter alia, the following topics:

- How to ensure that the Gulf of Fonseca becomes, for all three countries, a zone of peace, security and sustainable development;
- The implementation of joint programmes and projects to reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and populations, or in any other fields mutually agreed upon;
- The development of binational and trinational projects and companies in innovative fields, focusing on regional planning and sustainable development, without prejudice to national projects;
- The sustainable, fair and mutually supportive use of natural resources, tourism, the strengthening of local governments, traditional fishing and aquaculture, among other things.

In order to take this initiative forward, a working group shall be established by a Presidential Commission, which, by agreement between the three parties, may seek support for the implementation of its mandate from the Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA). At its first meeting, the working group will decide on its working methods and procedures.

The immediate and main task of the working group will be the preparation of a proposal containing a plan for the sustainable development of the Gulf of Fonseca in all its forms and aspects.

The working group will explore and recommend, in light of successful experience and initiatives in ecosystem management around the world, the adoption of administrative measures, or measures of any other type, to ensure the successful completion of its work from a perspective of regional planning, sustainable development and implementation at the local level.

The working group will be required to submit, for the consideration of the leaders of the signatory Governments, a progress report on its work within 180 days from today's date.

The signatory Governments hereby call on the international community to support their legitimate efforts to achieve the sustainable development of the Gulf of Fonseca.

Managua, Nicaragua, 4 October 2007.

(*Signed*) Elías Antonio **Saca González**
President of the Republic of El Salvador

(*Signed*) José Manuel **Zelaya Rosales**
President of the Republic of Honduras

(*Signed*) José Daniel **Ortega Saavedra**
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

United Nations A/62/487

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 128
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

By its resolutions 56/270 and 60/248, the General Assembly approved the construction of additional office facilities at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa at a total estimated project cost of $11,383,300. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly in resolution 60/248, the present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the project since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/61/158), seeks approval of the revised project estimate of $14,333,100 and the authority to enter into a commitment in the amount of $1,936,400 gross ($1,849,800 net), to be reported as necessary in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.

* The issuance of the report was delayed owing to the need for extensive consultation in the overall context of ongoing capital expenditure projects.

07-54038 (E) 241007

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 56/270, the General Assembly approved the construction of additional office facilities at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, with a total area of approximately 6,770 square metres, and the utilization of an amount of $7,711,800 for that purpose, to be financed from within the available balance of the construction-in-progress account. Subsequently, by section VII of resolution 60/248, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/532) and endorsed the related recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.21, para. 12) to expand the scope of the project to include the construction of two additional floors that would be completed simultaneously with the originally approved four floors. The total capacity of the new office facilities would be 9,550 square metres, at a total estimated project cost of $11,383,300. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 56/270, progress reports are submitted to the General Assembly on an annual basis. The present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the project since the issuance of the previous annual report of the Secretary-General (A/61/158).

II. Allocation of additional land and access to it by the host country

2. In his previous annual report, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the addendum to the host country agreement had been cleared by the Office of Legal Affairs and submitted to the host country Government for approval. The addendum has now been signed, giving ECA rights to the duty-free and tax-free import of services and materials and other related privileges that will allow the efficient and cost-effective implementation of the project.

3. ECA continues to collaborate with the local authorities on the construction of the alternate public access road, and while the Addis Ababa municipality remains positive as to the timely construction of the road, no progress has been made to date. In the event that the access road cannot be completed before the start of the construction of the new office facility, it will be necessary for ECA to build a temporary access road which would entail additional costs for the United Nations.

III. Status of development of the project

4. Following the approval by the General Assembly of the two additional floors, it became necessary to have the project design revised to accommodate the changes. Revised drawings were developed and submitted to ECA in September 2006. In reviewing the submission, a number of issues with the proposed design had to be addressed, requiring extensive coordination among all parties involved (e.g., the positioning of the elevators and the electrical circuitry in the structure). Other associated minor changes entailed cost escalation and required amendment to the initial contract with the international architect. A series of negotiations was conducted with the architect and an agreement was reached in mid-2007. In addition, the project coordinator, who had been selected in October 2006, could not

join ECA until April 2007, which contributed to the delays since his input to the design was considered essential. The amendments to the contract with the international architect were signed on 13 June 2007 and the architect submitted the final drawings to ECA at the end of August 2007. The bidding exercise for the selection of a general contractor was initiated shortly after completion of review of the drawings, and the final tender documents are being completed. It is anticipated that the selection of a general construction contractor will be finalized in February 2008 and that the construction works will commence immediately thereafter.

5. A summary of expenditure on the project as at 31 August 2007 is provided in table 1.

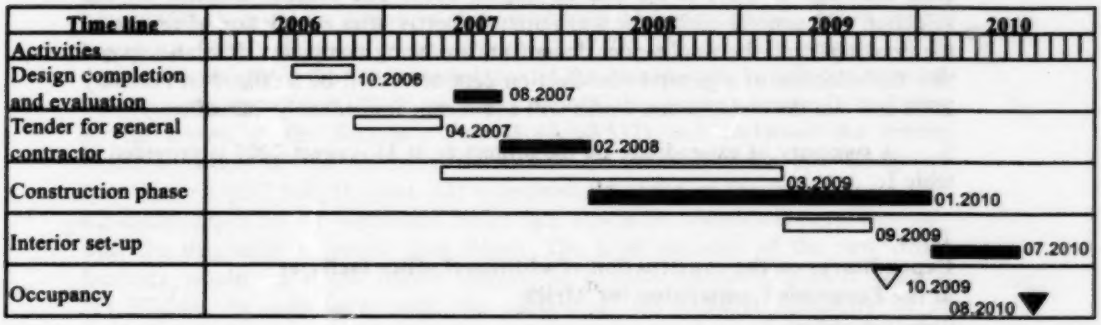
Table 1
Expenditures on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa
(United States dollars)

	Approved budget	*Expenditure as at 31 August 2007*
Construction costs	7 488 600	—
Design, consultancy services and project coordination	1 384 900	1 100 357
Site works	1 153 300	29 110
Workstations and furniture	262 800	—
Construction contingencies	1 093 700	—
Total	**11 383 300**	**1 129 467**

6. In view of the difficulty encountered by the international architect in coordinating the project from abroad, a decision was taken to hire a locally based architect for the construction phase of the project, which is expected to be a more cost-effective means of facilitating the day-to-day management of the project. The selection of the architect is currently undergoing evaluation. Moreover, to provide oversight by United Nations Headquarters, an independent quantity surveyor who would report directly to the Facilities Management Service at Headquarters is in the process of being appointed. The quantity surveyor will provide independent control over the various aspects of the construction, including verification of the contractors' invoices.

7. Owing to the amendment to the contract with the international architect and the delay in the design work, the original project schedule has had to be revised. The project is now expected to be completed in August 2010 instead of October 2009. A summary of the revised project schedule is provided in table 2.

Table 2
Revised project schedule of the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa



Legend:
Project schedule envisaged in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/61/158).
Current revised project schedule.

IV. Security requirements

8. The construction of new office facilities entails certain elements of risk assessment, mitigation measures, structural modifications, fire protection and the upgrading of safety systems. To provide United Nations staff and premises at the ECA complex with a sufficient level of security and safety preparedness, it will be necessary to provide expanded security services. The security requirements had not been sought earlier while ECA was engaged in the protracted work of revising the design: it was anticipated that security services would be required only upon the commencement of the construction phase and that security requirements for the remainder of the 2006-2007 biennium could be met from within existing resources. However, upon the finalization of the design and following an assessment of the threat level and the security arrangements required during the construction phase, it was identified that, as of 2008, additional resources will be required, given that the security staff currently authorized at ECA are fully engaged in covering existing assignments (e.g., control of pedestrian and vehicular access, security patrols, issuance and control of passes and identification, canine unit crisis management, fire and hazardous material safety, security control centre, close protection, etc.). To effectively provide security services to the construction areas and to other areas of the complex in which the work and activities of the United Nations will continue to be performed, it has been estimated that 25 additional security officers will be required for provision of the following services:

(a) *Pedestrian and vehicular access*. With the construction under way, the need to manage the entry of construction workers and materials will become critical. Consequently, two extra checkpoints will need to be opened to handle the entry and exit of construction workers and materials. Since these two checkpoints would need to be manned on a 24-hour basis and since all of the currently authorized resources are fully committed, six security officers (three for each checkpoint) would be

required in order to provide the expanded security services during the construction phase;

(b) *Security patrol*. Internal patrols will become critical with access to the ECA premises opened to the construction workers. Construction is expected to be carried out six days a week, and it is anticipated that an around-the-clock security presence would be required to secure the construction site and materials. Since the construction site is some distance away from the existing ECA premises, current security patrols will not be able to absorb this work in the performance of their routine functions. A total of 14 additional security officers (two teams of 7) would be required to conduct security-patrolling duties on a 24-hour basis;

(c) *Fire safety, hazardous material and related tasks*. The construction work will entail additional safety issues and risks related to hazardous material, fire safety, etc. Five security officers are required to perform fire and safety patrols for monitoring code and safety violations during construction.

9. To meet the above requirements, a provision of $759,800 will be required in the 2008-2009 biennium, consisting of: (a) $622,500 for general temporary assistance for the cost of 25 security officers for the period from March 2008 to December 2009; (b) $47,600 for uniforms and uniform items; and (c) $89,700 for security equipment.

10. Security requirements for periods beyond December 2009 will be reviewed and considered in the context of future proposed programme budgets.

V. Construction requirements

11. While the estimated cost for the design and construction of the additional office facilities, as approved by the General Assembly in section VII of resolution 60/248, amounts to $11,383,300, it is recalled that an additional requirement of $1,100,000 was identified for the information and technology network and telephone equipment (A/60/532, para. 19). That requirement, however, was not to be requested until such time as the Organization-wide compatibility of the systems, including their integration with the standardized access control system, could be ensured. Consequently, a provision of $1,100,000 for that purpose has been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 32)), which would allow occupancy by 2010. The provision is based on estimates of office accommodation for 610 offices and workstations and 1,000 telephone lines, including facsimile and central office trunk and tie lines.

12. As the construction plan further developed, especially following the completion of the design and evaluation process in August 2007, the following additional requirements that need to be addressed in the implementation of the project have been identified:

(a) *Internal access roads*. At the time of the project's conception, no internal access road was considered necessary because the initial location of the building was inside the existing compound and it was uncertain at that time whether additional land would be granted by the host Government. With the subsequent allocation of additional land and the completion of the design, it has become necessary to build internal access roads at an estimated cost of $130,000. It should

be noted that inclusion of this project at a later stage would compromise the completion and occupation date of the building;

(b) *Supplementary parking*. The construction of additional office facilities will eliminate the open-air parking space which is currently used by some of the occupants of the ECA compound. Further, with the implementation of the headquarters minimum operating security standards, some parking spaces were closed for security reasons, resulting in a 20 per cent reduction in the existing parking space. Owing to the insufficient public transportation and the increased activities of the United Nations agencies located in the compound, the number of field and office vehicles has dramatically increased. Similarly, the requirement of the diplomatic and African Union community for access to the compound has also increased. In addition, an estimated 610 staff members will be occupying the new office facilities, placing an increased demand on the parking capacity. Because of these reasons, it has become necessary to build a multi-storey parking facility at an estimated cost of $660,000 (i.e., a parking capacity of 660 cars at an average cost of $1,000 per car space). ECA is currently reviewing the possibility of introducing a parking fee policy as from January 2008. The policy, should it become effective, is expected to generate income of $54,000 per year, based on the current parking capacity of 600 cars. With the completion of the supplementary parking facility, which would bring the total parking capacity to 1,260 cars, the parking fee income would increase to $172,800 per year, based on the current proposal to designate 300 car spaces for use on a first-come first-served basis;

(c) *Back-up power supply*. The power supplied by utilities in Addis Ababa has not been consistent in the recent years. Forecasts indicate a likelihood of more outages in the near future owing to insufficient new power production capacities, and the increase in demand as a result of the electrification and industrialization of the country. To ensure power supply to the new office facilities upon their completion, an estimated $300,000 will be required for back-up generators and facilities. The generator, together with cabling, panelling, testing, etc., would be installed during the construction phase.

13. The additional requirements arising from the security and construction requirements indicated above are summarized in table 3.

Table 3
Revised project cost
(United States dollars)

	Estimated costs
Initial funding approved by the General Assembly in resolution 60/248	
Construction costs	7 488 600
Design and consultancy services	774 700
Site work, fire protection, local area networks/wide area networks, lighting, security and audio systems	1 153 300
Workstations and furniture	262 800
Project coordination	610 200
Construction contingencies	1 093 700

	Estimated costs
Additional funding requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 32))[a]	
Installation of information technology and telephone equipment	1 100 000
Subtotal	**12 483 300**
Additional funding requested in the present report	
Safety and security	759 800
Internal access roads	130 000
Parking and landscaping	660 000
Generators and generator house	300 000
Subtotal	**1 849 800**
Total	**14 333 100**

[a] Subject to approval.

VI. Conclusion

14. **As noted above, owing to the delays in the project design phase, the additional requirements relating to ensuring safety and security and the unforeseen construction components that have become necessary for the new office facilities, it is anticipated that the total cost of the project would amount to $14,333,100. Based on the projected expenditure for each year (see annex), a commitment authority by the General Assembly is sought at the present time under section 32 ($1,090,000), section 33 ($759,800) and section 35 ($86,600) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, to be reported, as necessary, in the context of the first performance report for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

VII. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

15. **The General Assembly is requested to:**

(a) **Approve the revised total cost of $14,333,100 for the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa;**

(b) **Authorize the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment in the amount of $1,936,400 gross ($1,849,800 net) under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, to be reported, as necessary, in the context of the first performance report for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, comprising $1,090,000 under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance; $759,800 under section 33, Safety and security; and $86,600 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

Annex

Projected expenditure for additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa

(United States dollars)

			Projected expenditure			
	Total amount	*Expenditure as at 31 August 2007*	*September-December 2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Approved budget (General Assembly resolutions 56/270 and 60/248)						
Construction costs	7 488 600	—	—	2 995 440	3 744 300	748 860
Design, consultancy services and project coordination	1 384 900	1 100 357	36 151	286 000	289 400	239 150
Site works	1 153 300	29 110	—	505 885	618 305	—
Workstations and furniture	262 800	—	—	—	—	262 800
Contingencies[a]	1 093 700	—	—	52 754	263 771	211 017
Additional funding requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6)						
Installation of information technology and telephone equipment	1 100 000	—	—	—	880 000	220 000
Additional requirements proposed in the present report						
Safety and security	759 800	—	—	409 800	350 000	—
Internal access roads	130 000	—	—	45 500	45 500	39 000
Parking and landscaping	660 000	—	—	132 000	264 000	264 000
Generators and generator house	300 000	—	—	—	300 000	—
Total	**14 333 100**	**1 129 467**	**36 151**	**4 427 379**	**6 755 276**	**1 984 827**

[a] It is projected that an amount of $566,158 from contingencies would be used to cover expenditures in relation to design, consultancy services and project coordination.

United Nations A/62/488

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda items 11, 17, 18, 29, 43, 44, 45, 48, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 64, 71, 116, 117, 126, 128 and 129

Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Assistance in mine action

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

Sport for peace and development

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Groups of countries in special situations

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

07-54121 (E) 291007

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Programme planning

Letter dated 8 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their thirty-first annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 September 2007 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 11, 17, 18, 29, 43, 44, 45, 48, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 64, 71, 116, 117, 126, 128 and 129

(*Signed*) Ambassador Munir **Akram**
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China, guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and by the provisions of the Havana Declaration and Plan of Action and the Doha Declaration and Plan of Action, met on the occasion of the thirty-first annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 September 2007, reviewed the developments in the international economic situation and the activities undertaken in the context of the development agenda of the United Nations and adopted the following declaration.

2. The Ministers remained fully convinced of the imperative to continue to act in solidarity and unity for a peaceful and prosperous world that responds to their aspirations. They reaffirmed their full commitment to the principles and objectives of the Group of 77 and China and to protect and promote their collective interests through genuine international cooperation for development.

3. The Ministers examined the diverse challenges faced by developing countries and noted with grave concern that the international economic environment continues to be unfavourable for the developing world. The Ministers expressed their concern about the expected deceleration in the world economy in 2007 and the vulnerability of developing countries to any slow down in the global economy and to the volatility of the international commodity and financial markets. The Ministers also noted that widening global macroeconomic imbalances and inequities in global economic governance have kept many of the world's people and nations inside the vicious circle of poverty.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed that economic and social development are the centrepiece of the objectives and operational activities of the United Nations. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, should continue to be the overarching framework of the development activities of the United Nations system. The Ministers reiterated the need to fully implement all agreed commitments from all the major United Nations summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields. The Ministers further emphasized the need for a strengthened global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies.

5. The Ministers noted with deep concern that the lack of effective implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, remains the Achilles heel of the development agenda and stressed that securing the effective and full implementation of the agreed goals and commitments must be the highest priority. Building on General Assembly resolution 60/265, the United Nations should develop an intergovernmental consensus for the establishment of effective mechanisms to review and follow up the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals.

6. The Ministers welcomed the operationalization by the General Assembly of resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the annual ministerial review and the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, held in Geneva from 1 to 28 July 2007. They took note of the presentations made by six developing countries in the first annual ministerial review and invited the developed countries to make presentations on their Millennium Development Goal strategies, in particular on Goal 8, during the annual ministerial review in 2008.

7. The Ministers reiterated the significance of increased financing for development, including the need to meet the long-standing target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries.

8. The Ministers called upon developed countries to ensure that information on their efforts to increase the volume of official development assistance is made available to the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

9. The Ministers renewed the commitment to continuing to discuss innovative mechanisms for financing for development and acknowledged the progress made in this area and the value of developing innovative sources of financing from various sources on public, private, domestic and external bases, in order to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing, and invited countries to consider contributing in this regard.

10. The Ministers reiterated the urgent need for the international community to adopt an effective, equitable, durable and development-oriented solution to the debt problems of developing countries, in particular through total debt cancellation and increased concessional financial flows.

11. The Ministers reaffirmed the high priority that developing countries attach to the financing for development process as a valuable opportunity to secure support for our common vision and views for addressing the global financial and trade constraints faced by most developing countries. The Ministers welcomed the follow-up to International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, scheduled to be held in Doha in the second half of 2008. The Ministers reiterated their expectation that the review conference should assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation, as well as new challenges and emerging issues. They urged the review conference to follow-up the implementation of the outcome of the first International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and to adopt necessary measures for the strengthening of the review and follow-up mechanism for the realization of the commitments made.

12. The Ministers stressed the commitment contained in the Monterrey Consensus to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm setting and to that end stressed the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture so as to enhance the effective participation of these countries in international decision-making. They noted that enhancing the voice and

participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern, and in this regard called for further and effective progress.

13. The Ministers called for the reform of the global financial architecture and global economic governance to ensure that global policies and processes in finance, trade, investment and technology are development-oriented and fully address the needs and concerns of developing countries.

14. The Ministers reiterated that developing countries should have the required policy space to formulate their development strategies, in keeping with national development policies, strategies and priorities to reflect national priorities and the particular circumstances of each country.

15. The Ministers expressed concern over the stalemate in the Doha Round of trade negotiations, which jeopardizes the delivery of development promises for the developing countries. The Ministers called on developed countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to break the current impasse in the negotiations. They recognized the mandates contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the decision of the World Trade Organization General Council of 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to meaningfully integrate the developing countries into the multilateral trading system and called for the early resumption and timely completion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, with the fullest realization of the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme.

16. The Ministers stressed the importance of facilitating the accession of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries that apply for membership in the World Trade Organization, without political impediments, in an expeditious and transparent manner and with full observance of the principles of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

17. The Ministers stressed the need to strengthen the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development issues, as a vital component of the international economic system, to fully implement its mandate for policy analysis and policy advice, its indispensable role for forging consensus-building on development matters, and its activities in technical assistance and capacity-building. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the twelfth session of UNCTAD from 20 to 25 April 2008 in Accra.

18. The Ministers emphasized that it is essential to adopt appropriate measures to overcome the technological gap between developing and developed countries and to work towards arrangements that facilitate the process of technology transfer. In this regard, the Ministers noted with concern the restraints imposed on access to technology, especially advanced technologies and certain aspects of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, including Trade in Counterfeit Goods, which are adversely affecting the developmental needs of developing countries, particularly in sectors such as health and education.

19. The Ministers firmly rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterated the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. They emphasized that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. They, therefore,

called on the international community neither to recognize these measures nor apply them.

20. The Ministers recognized the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and called for the full and timely implementation of all commitments made so as to enable African countries to enter the mainstream of the world economy.

21. The Ministers reaffirmed the special needs of and underscored the need to address the challenges faced by the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States. In this regard, the Ministers urged the international community and the United Nations system to address those needs and vulnerabilities and to take urgent and concrete action to fulfil their commitments through the full and effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Almaty Programme of Action, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

22. The Ministers also reaffirmed the special needs and challenges faced by countries emerging from conflicts. In this regard, the Ministers urged the international community and the United Nations system to address these needs and challenges and to take urgent and concrete action in the area of financial assistance and technical support and infrastructure development in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

23. The Ministers also called for continued support for the development efforts of low-income developing countries in addressing their social, economic and developmental needs, including through the provision of technical, financial and other forms of assistance, promotion of and strengthening of partnerships and cooperation arrangements at all levels.

24. The Ministers called for continued support for the development efforts of middle-income developing countries, including through targeted and substantial technical assistance and the promotion of new partnerships and cooperation arrangements, including bilateral arrangements, as well as by working in competent multilateral, regional and international forums in support of national development strategies.

25. The Ministers expressed their concern over the increased frequency and scale of natural disasters in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for countries, particularly developing countries. They called upon the international community, particularly developed countries and the relevant international organizations, to increase their assistance to affected States, including by supporting efforts towards enhancing their national and regional capacities for implementation of plans and strategies for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development. The Ministers also reiterated that humanitarian assistance should be rendered upon the request of the affected States, and reaffirmed that in this regard the guiding principles for the provision of humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182 must be respected.

26. The Ministers recognized that climate change poses serious risks and challenges, particularly to developing countries and therefore demanded urgent global action and response. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed the Rio Principles, in particular Principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities. All three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection, should be addressed in an integrated, coordinated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing manner. The Ministers also recognized the need to identify new, additional and predictable resources, as well as additional innovative resources for financing for development, as special assistance to those developing countries adversely affected by climate change.

27. The Ministers looked forward to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007.

28. The Ministers also welcomed the initiative of the President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly to convene a thematic debate on climate change from 31 July to 2 August 2007 and the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene a high-level event on climate change on 24 September 2007.

29. The Ministers recognized further the challenges posed by desertification and land degradation and resolved to support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation. The Ministers called upon the international community to increase its assistance to such countries by providing additional and predictable financial resources as well as technical support in order to combat desertification and land degradation.

30. The Ministers recalled the discussions that took place during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held at United Nations Headquarters in September 2006, and took note of the First Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Brussels in July 2007. The Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Philippines to host the second Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila in October 2008, strongly urged all countries to strengthen the protection of the human rights of all migrants and reiterated their determination to continue to address the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination.

31. The Ministers expressed their grave concern at the continuing devastation caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in developing countries, and called for the full implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS "Global Crisis — Global Action" adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly in 2001 and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the General Assembly High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2006.

32. The Ministers emphasized the critical importance of both national and international efforts to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment and care, stressed the need for funding at the international level to help developing countries overcome lack of resources and reaffirmed the right of countries to employ the

flexibilities outlined in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to promote access to medicines for all, including the production of generic antiretroviral drugs and other essential drugs for AIDS-related infections.

33. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong support for the United Nations and for all collective efforts aiming at enhancing its ability to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of all its programmes, in particular in the social and economic development field. The Ministers firmly believed that the legitimacy and viability of any reform measures depended ultimately on the approval of States Members of the United Nations. The Ministers emphasized that measures to reform the United Nations should respond to the unique intergovernmental, multilateral and international character of the United Nations.

34. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientation for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system. The Ministers also reaffirmed that the policy review should determine the course of action for United Nations operational activities and should not be superseded or pre-empted by other processes.

35. The Ministers firmly rejected attempts to politicize the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and underscored the importance of the principles of neutrality and impartiality in the provision of development assistance.

36. The Ministers affirmed their willingness to remain constructively engaged in the ongoing intergovernmental integrated consideration of the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-Wide Coherence and the report of the Secretary-General on its recommendations.

37. The Ministers affirmed that the sovereign equality of Member States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be respected, including throughout the reform processes, irrespective of the contributions that individual Member States make to the budget of the Organization. Governance arrangements and decision-making processes exercised through the General Assembly, its main committees and subsidiary bodies are the sole responsibility of Member States in accordance with the Charter. They upheld the role of Member States, through the relevant main committees of the General Assembly, in the consideration of budgetary and administrative matters.

38. The Ministers strongly supported the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

39. The Ministers reaffirmed that the financial stability of the United Nations should not be jeopardized by arbitrary measures. The Ministers stressed that any efforts to use financial contributions to push for the adoption of certain proposals are counterproductive and violate the obligations of Member States to provide resources for the Organization, as enshrined in its Charter, and in accordance with the principle of capacity to pay.

40. The Ministers noted with deep concern that the United Nations Development Account represents only 0.37 per cent of the overall proposed regular budget for the

biennium 2008-2009 and the Ministers therefore decided to increase it significantly during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly and thereafter.

41. The Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring that the Secretariat meets the highest standards of accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical conduct. The Ministers therefore urged the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to define accountability in the Organization, establish clear accountability mechanisms to the General Assembly and propose parameters for the application of accountability and instruments for its rigorous enforcement.

42. The Ministers stressed the need for transparency and clear mechanisms in the recruitment process and for an increase in the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, in particular at the senior level, with due respect to equitable geographical distribution.

43. The Ministers recognized the increased relevance of South-South cooperation in the current international economic environment and reiterated their support for South-South cooperation both as a strategy in support of the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing the participation of developing countries in the emerging global economy. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to fully implement the Havana Programme of Action, the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action, which, taken together, represent a comprehensive framework for intensified cooperation among developing countries.

44. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation in the United Nations system, including in the funds, programmes and specialized agencies involved in South-South cooperation, and in this regard the Ministers supported the strengthening of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and called on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide the Special Unit with the necessary support to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

45. The Ministers stressed that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South cooperation and reiterated that South-South cooperation is an imperative to complement North-South cooperation in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Ministers recognized that it is also an effective tool to maintain and strengthen solidarity and unity in order to enhance the welfare of developing countries.

46. The Ministers welcomed the recommendation made by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fifteenth session held in New York from 29 May to 1 June 2007, to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and in this regard the Ministers welcomed the generous offer made by the Government of Argentina to host the conference.

47. The Ministers looked forward to the early operationalization of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance and called for greater efforts in this regard.

48. The Ministers noted the efforts for the elaboration of the Development Platform of the South, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the Second South

Summit, and welcomed the convening of the Second Meeting of Experts on the Development Platform, to be held in New York on 18 and 19 October 2007.

49. The Ministers welcomed the ongoing preparations for the Ministerial Forum on Water, to be held in Muscat (Sultanate of Oman) from 22 to 24 March 2008.

50. The Ministers welcomed the generous offer by the Government of the Dominican Republic to host a ministerial forum on sports, culture and development in 2008.

51. The Ministers approved the report of the twenty-second meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC) contained in document G-77/AM(XIX)/2007/2, and endorsed its recommendations. The Ministers commended the Chairman of the Trust Fund for his continued commitment, expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved by the Trust Fund and invited Member States to participate in the United Nations pledging conference to be held in New York on 12 November 2007.

52. The Ministers approved the financial statement of the ECDC account of the Group of 77 contained in document G-77/AM(XIX)/2007/4, as presented by the Chairman of the Group of 77, and urged those Member States that have not yet done so to make special efforts to pay their outstanding contributions.

53. The Ministers reiterated their call for the immediate withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from other occupied Arab territories. They reaffirmed their support for the Middle East peace process, begun in Madrid in 1991, aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace. In this context, they also reaffirmed their support for the Arab Peace Initiative, renewed by the Arab Summit in Riyadh in March 2007, and for all the positive efforts being exerted in this regard.

54. The Ministers condemned the ongoing Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people in Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which has resulted in the loss of civilian lives and the vast destruction of Palestinian properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people over the past year, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the illegal Israeli practices, including its illegitimate construction of settlements, the wall and bypass roads. They called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately all illegal measures impairing the Palestinian economy, including, in particular, restrictions on the movement of persons and goods throughout, into and out of the Occupied Territory and to release all remaining tax revenues due to the Palestinian Authority and to make reparation for all damages caused to Palestinian properties, institutions and infrastructure. They reiterated their call upon the international community to provide much needed assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period.

55. The Ministers expressed support for the assistance in the demining efforts and cluster bombs clearance in the south of Lebanon and called on Israel to provide the United Nations with all the maps and information on the location of the landmines

that it has planted in the south of Lebanon during its occupation and its 2006 aggression against Lebanon, as well as to provide information on the cluster bomb strike locations, which are hindering the development and rehabilitation of the south of Lebanon and preventing the agricultural exploitation of vast areas of rich agrarian land. The Ministers requested Israel to assume responsibility for the laying of landmines and the use of cluster bombs in the south of Lebanon and for defraying the cost of clearance, as well as for providing compensation to Lebanon for any ensuing losses and for the reclaiming of the affected areas in the south of Lebanon for productive purposes.

56. The Ministers supported the inalienable right of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with international law, in particular to ensure the social and economic needs of its population in the liberated areas and villages. They called on Israel to end its air violations of Lebanese sovereignty and other violations that severely damage the security situation, which is a critical factor in promoting the tourism industry and the economy. The Ministers emphasized Lebanon's concerns resulting from the continued detention of Lebanese prisoners and detainees by Israel and the related security risks that could set back the development efforts of Lebanon.

57. The Ministers expressed their deep appreciation to Pakistan for the excellent work and tireless efforts as the Chair country of the Group of 77 and China.

58. The Ministers welcomed the election of Antigua and Barbuda to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China in 2008.